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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Items 20 (c) and 45 of
the provisional agenda*
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 6 August 1998 from the representatives of the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement on the outcome of the Russian-Uzbek talks held in Tashkent on 4 August 1998 regarding the situation in Afghanistan.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under items 20 (c) and 45 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yuriy FEDOTOV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of
the Russian Federation to
the United Nations

(Signed) Alisher VOHIDOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
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* A/53/150.

ANNEX

Statement on the outcome of the Russian-Uzbek talks held in Tashkent on 4 August 1998

On 4 August 1998, Russian-Uzbek talks were held in Tashkent with the participation of General A. Kvashnin, First Deputy Minister for Defence, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Mr. B. Pastukhov, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and officials from other ministries concerned.

On the Uzbek side, Mr. K. Tursunov, Minister for Defence, Mr. A. Kamilov, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and officials from the relevant ministries took part in the talks.

A wide-ranging exchange of views was held in a spirit of openness, as is traditional, and of mutual concern for the strengthening of peace and stability in the Central Asian region, concerning the worsening situation in northern Afghanistan, where the Taliban movement, with massive support from outside, has unleashed a new offensive in an attempt to resolve the Afghan problem by force of arms.

All the efforts undertaken by the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, to achieve a political settlement in Afghanistan, may be brought to naught. The determination of the Afghan people to preserve national integrity and harmony and resolve the country's internal problems by peaceful means has been openly disregarded.

The Russian Federation and Uzbekistan are deeply concerned about the escalation of bloodshed on Afghan soil. The Taliban movement must stop military actions immediately.

In the belief that only the Afghans themselves can determine the fate of their homeland, and, without external interference, put an end to the civil war which has lasted for so many years, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan appeal to all the forces involved in the armed conflict to find peaceful ways of settling all the problems and disagreements.

The Russian and Uzbek representatives are prepared to meet representatives of the opposing Afghan forces immediately in order to prevent a further escalation of military actions in northern Afghanistan and promote the early defusing of the Afghan crisis.

As a result of the exchange of views on the current situation in Afghanistan, which may lead to a direct threat to the national interests and security of the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan, and also other Central Asian States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the parties reserve the right to take all necessary measures to strengthen the security of their external borders in accordance with the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992.